

The following is a list of resources that will provide more in-depth information on the subjects covered in this guide. Several of these books are out of print but may be available at a local public or university library. Books with an * are children's books.

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Kaufman, John. 1972. Bats in the Dark. Cowell.

Lauber, Patricia. 1968. Bats, Wings in the Night. Random House.

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Milton, Joyce. Bats: Creatures of the Night. Putnam.

Schlein, Miriam. 1982. Billions of Bats. Lipp.

Tuttle, Merlin D. 1988. America's Neighborhood Bats: Understanding and Learning to Live in Harmony With Them. University of Texas.

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CLIMATE PAST AND PRESENT:

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GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

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GREAT BASIN ASSOCIATION:

The Great Basin Association is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to support the interpretive, educational, cultural, and research activities of Great Basin National Park and the Great Basin physiographic region. The Association produces and sells interpretive and educational materials and presents programs relating to the Great Basin. The Association provides funds for the park's newspaper and Junior Ranger program. Funds are generated through membership revenues, donations, and bookstore sales.

Please consider becoming a member of the Great Basin Association. Members receive a 15% discount on all purchases from the bookstore, located in the park's Visitor Center. Most national park cooperating associations will honor your Great Basin Association membership card for a similar bookstore discount.

Great Basin Association Baker, Nevada 89311 (775) 234-7270

ADAPTATION:

A behavior, physical feature, or other characteristic that helps a living creature survive and make the most of its habitat.

ALLUVIAL FAN:

A fan shaped deposit formed where streams issue from the mountains onto the lowland.

ALPINE:

The biogeographic zone including the elevated slopes above treeline.

ATLATL:

A throwing device, from the Aztec word meaning "spear thrower".

BAROMETER:

An instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure.

BASIN AND RANGE:

Topography characterized by isolated, nearly parallel (north-south) mountain ranges with intervening valleys or basins. Basin and range includes Nevada, the southern parts of Oregon and Idaho, parts of Utah, California, Arizona. New Mexico and northern Mexico.

BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY:

All of the living things, both plants and animals, living in a particular environment, together fulfilling their individual needs.

BLOCK FAULTING:

A type of normal or gravity faulting in which the Earth's crust is separated into blocks of different orientations and elevations.

CARNIVORE:

An animal that eats meat. Gopher snakes, mountain lions, and golden eagles are examples of carnivores that live in the Great Basin.

CLIMATE:

The historical record of average daily and seasonal weather events.

CLOUD:

A visible body of fine droplets of water. A cloud may exist up to several miles above the earth's surface.

CONDENSATION:

The process by which water changes from a vapor state to a liquid or solid state. Water vapor stored in clouds condenses to form rain.

CROSS-DATING:

A method of comparing tree rings of different trees to determine the life-span and time of life of the trees.

DENDROCHRONOLOGY:

Determining the age of a tree by counting its rings; the study of variations in past climates by comparing tree rings.

DESERT:

An arid, barren land, generally receiving less than 9 inches of precipitation per year. Cold deserts (such as the Great Basin) receive most of their precipitation as snow.

ENVIRONMENT:

The combination of external or extrinsic physical (or social) conditions affecting and influencing the growth and development of organisms.

EROSION:

The wearing away of any part of the Earth's surface by natural agents such as water, wind and gravity.

ECOSYSTEM:

The interaction of the biological community (all living things) and the physical environment (water, air, minerals, and soil).

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

A species of plant or animal in danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of its range.

ENDEMIC

Belonging exclusively or confined to one place.

ETHNOBOTANY:

The uses of plants by a race or people.

EVAPORATION:

The process by which water changes to vapor.

EXOTIC SPECIES:

Not native, something that did not exist in the area before human beings brought it from another place.

EXTINCT SPECIES:

A species which has vanished from existence.

FAULT

A fracture or fracture zone in the Earth's crust along which there has been movement of the sides relative to each other.

GLACIER

A large block of ice moving slowly down a slop or valley. A glacier can also spread outward on a land surface or if melting exceeds snowfall, the glacier retreats up a valley or land surface.

GREAT BASIN

The geographical and hydrological region comprised of most of Nevada, southern Oregon and Idaho, western Utah, and a little of eastern California. This region is characterized by internal drainage; the surface water sources evaporate or percolate before they can flow to the ocean.

HABITAT:

The place where a plant or animal lives; an organism's home. This place provides food, water, shelter and space.

HERBIVORE:

An animal that eats only plant materials. Mule deer, kangaroo rats, and pinyon jays are examples of herbivores that live in the Great Basin.

HUMIDITY:

The amount of water vapor in the atmosphere.

IGNEOUS ROCK:

Rock formed by the crystallization of molten magma.

INVERSION:

Contrary to the normal situation, temperatures increase with elevation.

MAGMA:

Naturally occurring molten rock containing water and gases, found below the Earth's surface.

METAMORPHIC ROCK:

Rock changed by great temperature, pressure, stress, and/or chemical changes, usually at depth in the crust from preexisting rocks (either igneous or sedimentary).

METEOROLOGY:

The study of the atmosphere and its interactions and processes.

MESIC:

Requiring a moderate amount of moisture.

NATIVE SPECIES:

A plant or animal that evolved or was transported to an area through natural means.

OMNIVORE:

An animal that eats a wide range of foods, both plants and animals. Humans are examples of omnivores that live in the Great Basin.

MANO:

A stone used for grinding food by hand.

MFTATF-

A stone with an indented upper surface for grinding food.

PETROGLYPH:

A picture or design that is carved, picked, or etched into a rock surface.

PLAYA:

The flat floored bottom of an undrained desert basin that becomes, at times, a shallow lake.

PICTOGRAPH:

A picture or design painted on a rock surface.

POLLUTION:

Environmental contamination with man-made waste.

PRECIPITATION:

Water received on earth directly from the clouds as rain, hail, sleet or snow.

PREDATOR:

Any animal which hunts live animals for its food.

PREY:

An animal taken by a predator as food.

RIPARIAN:

Relating to, or living on the bank of a natural watercourse, such as a stream.

ROCK GLACIER:

A mass of year round ice covered by rocks that exhibits past or present movement or flow.

SEDIMENTARY ROCK:

Rocks deposited in layers through the action of water or wind.

TECTONIC PLATE:

One of the geological structures making up the Earth's crust, related to the deformation of the crust by faulting and folding.

THREATENED SPECIES:

A species present in its range but in danger because of a decline in its numbers and/or population.

TREELINE (OR TIMBERLINE):

The upper or lower elevational limit of arboreal growth.

WEATHER:

The state or condition of the atmosphere at any particular time or place.

WIND DIRECTION:

The direction from which the wind is moving.

NOTES

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